

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 28
Home-and-Community-Based Services Waiver - Participation and Applications

As an advocate for seniors and people with disabilities, I was so pleased to see this Bill.

Since the inception of this wonderful program, it has never been sufficient to satisfy the number of people who desire it. Rather, these people are languishing in facilities when they would rather be in a familiar setting with those who love them and can take care of them.

The Bill emphasizes that the number of slots must be not fewer than 7,500. It adds that after the Maryland Department of Health reviews the number of slots monthly, an application should be sent to the next 600 people on the list to begin the process, allowing the applicant six weeks to submit it and six months to meet all eligibility criteria.

Without the benefit of a Fiscal and Policy Note, I believe the number on the Wait List exceeds 20,000 applications.

I am always interested in saving taxpayer money. The cost for each person to receive the services provided in the community will be equal to, or less than those provided in a nursing facility.

I trust the members of the Committee will think about themselves and/or their family members and give this Bill a favorable vote.

Thank you.

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